RIBKWALLEN (CTENOPHORA), SCHIJFKWALLEN EN MEDUSEVORMENDE HYDROÏDEN (CNIDARIA: SCYPHOZOA, HYDROZOA) TE ZEEBRUGGE, RESULTATEN VAN 5 JAAR WAARNEMINGEN (1999-2003)

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During five years, medusae and their sessile stage were investigated in the environment of Zeebrugge (Belgium). As an amateur, I am restricted to investigations near the edge of the water. There is also a restriction in the way of collecting and in research later on. In spite of the primitive approach the results outshine the expectations.

Two species of Ctenophores, 4 species of Scyphozoa and 17 species of hydromedusae were collected. The hydroid has been reared from the medusa in 7 species (*Nemopsis bachei, Eucheilota maculata, Eutonina indicans*, *Sarsia tubulosa, Rathkea octopunctata, Aequorea vitrina* and *Margelopsis haeckeli)*.

For certain species this investigation yielded some new data on morphology, such as the development of the club-shaped tentacles of *Nemopsis bachei* and the variability of *Eucheilota maculata*.

In Ctenophora the occurrence is related to the relation predator-prey. *Pleurobrachia pileus* is carnivore on plankton and in his turn eaten by *Beroë gracilis*. Both Ctenophores are taken as food by *Aequorea vitrina*.

Separed populations of *Aurelia aurita* have settled in the inner and outer port. For this species the occurrence in summer is related to the winter temperature of the sea-water. A theory is proposed explaining the origin of young medusae, the movement with mass of water, occurrence or absence in the marina according to the tide, concentrations of medusae at sea and the washing up ashore. Abnormalities in the number of gonads are as frequent as in the beginning of the last century.

The formally reported (De Blauwe, 2001) *Pelagia noctiluca* appeared to be the young pelagia-form of *Cyanea lamarcki*.

Fairly young medusae of *Chrysaora hysoscella* and *Rhizostoma octopus* indicate the possible occurrence of scyphistomae in the neighbourhood.

In Hydrozoa some remarkable observation were made. The life cycle of *Margelopsis haeckeli* could be followed in captivity. This yielded a hydroid developing more oral tentacles than formerly reported. A hydroid and hydromedusae were collected in the month of September, being a late observation.

Rathkea octopunctata is indigenous in the inner port and occurs in great numbers every year. The hydroid was found in Belgium for the first time. Cultivated hydrants of the latter species grew larger than formerly reported.

For *Nemopsis bachei* a vector of introduction is proposed. Rearing the hydroid yielded specimens conform the description of Kühl (1962). It was proved that the hydroid occurs in the marina by discovery of a reduced polypoid. The difficulty of finding the hydroid in nature is explained. The development from young medusae and the origin of the club-shaped tentacles is given. The number of normal tentacles is compared with observations on other find-spots.

An explanation is given for the occurrence of *Melicertum octocostatum* in the inner port.

It is probable that *Eucheilota maculata* and *Eucheilota flevensis* represent one variable species. *Eucheilota*'s were even found with 3 cirri at both sides of a tentacle. The variability might be related to the conditions of life. The stolon of the hydroid is smooth, in contrast with Cornelius (1995).

There are indications that the hydroid of *Aequorea vitrina* occurs in the inner port of Zeebrugge and in the Netherlands in 'het Grevelingenmeer'. The hydroid was cultivated from the medusae. *Aequorea forskalea* was collected in the marina.

A description of an unknown or deviated *Eirene* is given. At last abnormalities of some hydromedusae are enumerated.